

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus which acquires position information about a user of plural types of information terminals, comprising:

a service-asynchronous position information acquisition unit receiving data including position information from service-asynchronous information terminals that announce position information independently of requesting a service and that support plural types of different communications protocol and/or data format; and

a service-synchronous position information acquisition unit receiving data including position information from service-synchronous information terminals that announce position information when requesting a service and that support plural types of different communications protocol and/or data format;

wherein said service-asynchronous position information acquisition unit comprises a conversion unit converting the received data to the same format as data received by the service-synchronous position information acquisition unit;

said service-synchronous position information acquisition unit further receives data converted by said conversion unit of said service-asynchronous position information acquisition unit; and

said service-synchronous position information acquisition unit comprises

a terminal determination unit determining a type of the information terminal depending on data transmitted from the information terminal of the user according to which a communications protocol and/or data format is employed for the data transmitted from the information terminal and

a position information extraction unit extracting position information about the user from the data transmitted from the information terminal in response to the determination result.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

an accounting unit performing a process for charging a fee depending on an entry of a user to a system including the apparatus.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a user authentication unit authenticating a user of a terminal which has announced position information using data from a service-synchronous information terminal, or data converted by the conversion unit; and

a position information storage unit storing position information extracted by the position information extraction unit together with information about the terminal determined by said terminal determination unit.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising

an application linking apparatus for link with an application of a service provider for providing a service for a user, wherein

said application linking apparatus can further comprise a position information retrieval unit for retrieving position information about a specified user by said position information storage unit in response to a request from the application of the service provider, and for notifying the application side of the retrieved position information.

7. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

each time position information is announced from an information terminal of a user, said terminal determination unit can determine the type of information terminal, said position information extraction unit can extract position information, and said position information storage unit can store latest position information and terminal information.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a user authentication unit authenticating a user of a terminal which has announced

position information; and

a position information storage unit storing position information extracted by said position information extraction unit together with information about the terminal determined by said terminal determination unit corresponding to an authenticated user, wherein

when position information is simultaneously announced from a plurality of information terminals of the user, a policy of prioritizing the announced position information from the plurality of information terminals is set as a system operation environment; and

said position information storage unit can store position information from an information terminal prioritized by the policy.

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an application linking apparatus for link with an application of a service provider for providing a service for a user.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said application linking apparatus comprises an event notification unit for receiving designation of a condition including an area from a service provider in advance, and notifying the application side of the data relating to the user when the user satisfies the designated condition.

11. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said application linking apparatus comprises a position information reformat unit for receiving a request from a service provider, and reformatting position information about a user extracted by the position information extraction unit.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said application linking apparatus comprises an accounting unit for performing a process for charging a fee to a service provider that charges a user a fee for the communications established between the service provider and the user by the link with the application.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for obtaining position information about a user of plural types of information terminals, comprising:

receiving data including position information from service-asynchronous information terminals that announce position information independently of requesting a service and that support plural types of different communications protocol and/or data format;

receiving data including position information from service-synchronous information terminals that announce position information when requesting a service and that support plural types of different communications protocol and/or data format;

converting the received data from the service-asynchronous information terminals to the same format as the data received from the service-synchronous information terminals; and

receiving the converted data of the service-asynchronous information terminals with the data of said service-synchronous information terminals; and

wherein said receiving the converted data of said service-asynchronous information terminals and the data of said service-synchronous information terminals comprises

determining a type of an information terminal by the data transmitted from the information terminal of a user according to which a communication protocol and/or data format is employed for the data transmitted from the information terminal, and

extracting the position information about the user from the data transmitted from the information terminal depending on a determination result.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer forming an apparatus for obtaining position information about a user of plural types of information terminals, comprising:

receiving data including position information from service-asynchronous information terminals that announce position information independently of requesting a service and that support plural types of different communications protocol and/or data format;

receiving data including position information from service-synchronous information terminals that announce position information when requesting a service and that support plural types of different communications protocol and/or data format;

converting the received data from the service-asynchronous information terminals to the same format as the data received from the service-synchronous information terminals; and

receiving the converted data of the service-asynchronous information terminals with the data of said service-synchronous information terminals; and

wherein said receiving the converted data of said service-asynchronous information terminals and the data of said service-synchronous information terminals comprises

determining a type of an information terminal by the data transmitted from the information terminal of a user according to which a communications protocol and/or data format is employed for the data transmitted from the information terminal, and

extracting the position information about the user from the data transmitted from the

information terminal depending on a determination result.

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system of obtaining, managing, and using a status and a position of a user in an information terminal, comprising:

a service synchronous position information acquisition unit for acquiring position information about a service synchronous information terminal according to a first communications protocol which announces position information when a user requests a service; and

a service asynchronous position information acquisition unit for acquiring position information about a service asynchronous information terminal which announces position information independently of requesting a service, converting the position information of the service asynchronous information terminal according to various communications protocols depending on the information terminal to position information according to the first communications protocol when the user requests a service, and transmitting the position information to the service synchronous position information acquisition unit according to the converted first communications protocol,

characterized in that said service synchronous position information acquisition unit comprises:

a position information management unit for managing the status and position information acquired according to the first communications protocol per user rather than per information terminal; and

an application link unit capable of retrieving service information according to the status and position information about a user from a user database and notifying a service provider of the information.

17. (ORIGINAL) The system according to claim 16, wherein

said service synchronous position information acquisition unit absorbs the difference in the technology of the information terminal and the carrier, and acquires the position information about a user.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus which acquires position information about a user of plural types of information terminals, comprising:

means for receiving data including position information from service-asynchronous information terminals that announce position information independently of requesting a service and that support plural types of different communications protocol and/or data format; and

means for receiving data including position information from service-synchronous information terminals that announce position information when requesting a service and that support plural types of different communications protocol and/or data format;

wherein said means for receiving data from the service-asynchronous information terminals includes means for converting the received data of the service-asynchronous information terminals to the same format as the data received by the service-synchronous position information acquisition unit;

said means for receiving data from the service-synchronous information terminals includes means for receiving the converted data from the service-asynchronous information terminals ; and

said means for receiving data from the service-synchronous information terminals comprises

a terminal determination means for determining a type of the information terminal depending on data transmitted from the information terminal of the user according to which a communications protocol and/or data format is employed for the data transmitted from the information terminal, and

a position information extraction means for extracting position information about the user from the data transmitted from the information terminal in response to the determination result.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of obtaining position information of terminals, comprising:

acquiring position information of terminals receiving services from across multiple service providers, the terminals using a first protocol announcing position information upon a service request and a second protocol announcing position information independent of the service request; and

offering a service to the terminals using the acquired position information, where position information with respect to the second protocol is converted to the first protocol.